



Success starts here!

Kindergarten at the DSBN

Kindergarten Open Houses

Do you know a child who is turning 4 or 5 in 2013?
Help them get ready for the first day of school by visiting a DSBN Kindergarten Open House!

Parents and children are invited to attend their DSBN public school's kindergarten open house on:

Thursday, February 7
4:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.

Families will have the opportunity to tour the school, meet the school staff and receive a gift bag filled with fun learning resources and information that will help children develop school readiness skills. Parents will also have the opportunity to register their children for the coming school year.



See inside for more information
or visit our kindergarten website:
www.dsbn.org/kindergarten



DSBNiagara



@DSBN



Kindergarten Open Houses

Thursday, February 7
4:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.

Kindergarten at the DSBN

At the District School Board of Niagara, our caring teachers and staff are ready to welcome your child to Kindergarten. Your child will find that Kindergarten is a place that stimulates their curiosity, imagination and love of learning.

Kindergarten classrooms at the DSBN feature vibrant learning environments where children feel comfortable, safe and inspired to learn and explore.



Children who currently attend JK in the District School Board of Niagara do not need to register for Senior Kindergarten.

To complete registration, you will need your child's:

1. Birth Certificate, Birth Registration or Baptismal Certificate
2. Immunization Certificate

You may also be asked to show proof of address such as a recent utility bill or driver's license.

What should my child know?

Children do not need to have specific knowledge or skills to begin school. However, it is helpful if they are able to:

- Share and know how to take their turn
- Cooperate and play well with others
- Listen and pay attention for short periods of time
- Speak and ask for what they need
- Recognize their own name and answer to it
- Help out and pick up and put away classroom materials and toys after activity time
- Dress and undress themselves
- Use the toilet independently and clean themselves
- Play by themselves with toys for a period of time without needing adult attention
- Be away from their parent for brief periods and understand that parents will come back

How do I know if my child is ready?

Children who are ready for school are:

- happy playing with others
- eager to learn
- beginning to take responsibility for themselves and others
- beginning to be independent
- curious
- learning to cooperate



For more information or to contact us please visit our Kindergarten website:
www.dsbni.org/kindergarten

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THURSDAY, JANUARY 31, 2013

Chop the hike

Council looking where to trim
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Mayor gives an 'A'

Badawey pleased with attendance
 Page 7

Hitting 100 plus 5

Lotta Fretz celebrates 105th birthday
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Riddle me this

See if you can answer the puzzles
 Page 22

INPORTNEWS

SERVING PORT COLBORNE • WAINFLEET • SHERKSTON • LOWBANKS • ISSUE NO. 5 VOLUME 17

For news updated daily see www.inportnews.ca

SPECIAL DELIVERY

A pooppy problem for posties

MARYANNE FIRTH
 InPortNEWS Staff

PORT COLBORNE — Ah crap.

Those words were surely muttered Thursday, Jan. 24 after Port Colborne's post office was evacuated and cordoned off by police following discovery of a suspicious package.

The building was closed for several hours as the Niagara Regional Police explosives disposal and canine units swept the facility and examined an envelope that they eventually learned contained, well, crap.

"We suspect it's feces," NRP Const. Derek Watson said of the package's contents.

"We don't know for sure, but that's what we suspect it is."



MARYANNE FIRTH Staff Photo

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Niagara Regional Police evacuated and cordoned off Port Colborne's post office on Thursday following reports of a suspicious package.

www.HometownRealEstateGuy.com

Michael Smith
 SALES REPRESENTATIVE

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Thinking of a move this spring?? Not sure when to put your home on the market?

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It's a fresh and successful approach to buying or selling your biggest investment in what you are looking to do, give Michael a call to discuss your real estate.

upfront

■ POST OFFICE

Building evacuated

FROM PAGE A1

Emergency officials were called about the suspicious package at about 10:25 a.m., with police arriving on scene at 10:40.

The three employees who were working in the building at the time of the call were evacuated as a precaution and the building was taped off.

Members of the public approaching the Elm St. building, as well as Canada Post employees returning after completing their delivery routes, were turned away by police.

The package was X-rayed as police worked to learn of its contents.

Both Niagara EMS and Port Colborne Fire and Emergency Services were kept on standby in the area as a precaution.

There are a number of factors that may deem a package to be suspicious, said Dave Kramer, the Canada Post superintendent for Welland, Port Colborne and Wainfleet, who waited outside of the building for word from police.

Though he did not see the actual package in question, Kramer said if a package is found to have no return address, if the wording on it is seen as "odd," or if the item is leaking some sort of liquid, it can be deemed suspicious.

The post office will then contact the person to whom it is addressed to see if they were expecting a package, he added.

Welland detectives have been assigned to investigate the incident and will follow up to try to determine where the package was sent from, Watson said.

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■ LIBERAL LEADERSHIP: Local political reps share their thoughts on Ontario's incoming premier

ALLAN BENNER
InPortNEWS Staff

Even opposition party representatives in the Welland riding were optimistic about Kathleen Wynne becoming Ontario's new premier.

Regional councillor Peter Kormos said he was pleased with the outcome of the leadership convention, adding he counts Wynne among his friends.

"I like Kathleen. I worked well with her for many years," said Kormos, who served as the riding's New Democratic Party provincial representative for decades.

"I think she will assist Andrea in bringing civility to what would be an otherwise raucous election campaign," he said, referring to NDP leader Andrea Horwath.

Kormos worked as a commentator during televised coverage of the leadership conference.

"I'm glad she won the leadership."

But Wynne has a lot of work to do, working rebuilding faith in the party prior to another provincial election.

"The Liberal brand has been 'edsoiled,' both federally and provincially, for any number of reasons," he said. "I think she has to use her formidable skills to rebuild the Liberal party, if it can be done."

While congratulating Wynne on becoming Dalton McGuinty's replacement, Welland Provincial Progressive Conservative Riding Association president Agi Meté said he'd like to see some positive changes coming from the provincial government.

However, he doubts it'll happen.

"Now that the Liberal's



New Liberal Leader Kathleen Wynne is congratulated by outgoing Ontario Premier Dalton McGuinty after winning the leadership bid to become the new premier at the Ontario Liberal convention Saturday in Toronto.

MARK BLUNCH/Reuters

four-month hiatus is over, Ontarians are looking for Kathleen Wynne's plan to reverse the track Ontario is on," he wrote in an e-mail sent to *The Tribune*.

"Ontarians need to see she has a credible plan necessary to deal with the McGuinty-Wynne government's jobs and debt crisis."

He said the province has been at a standstill since the legislature was prorogued in the fall, "while more jobs have been lost and our debt has continued to climb."

"McGuinty's record is her record, one of failure," he said, adding the Welland riding "has not benefitted under the McGuinty-Wynne leadership of the last 10 years and nothing will change now

that she is the premier of Ontario."

Meté said the province — especially this area — cannot afford this Liberal government, "and we certainly can't afford Kathleen Wynne."

"Our leader Tim Hudak will be at Queen's Park on Monday, ready to hit the ground running urging her to present her plan to reverse the track the McGuinty-Wynne government has put us on."

"She's a great person," said Mike Belcastro, president of the Welland Provincial Liberal Riding Association. "I think all the candidates who ran in the leadership convention were great."

Belcastro said the Welland area has benefitted by

Wynne's leadership in the past.

"She's been around for awhile. When she was minister of transportation at the beginning of the expansion of the 406, she was down to the city a few times."

Belcastro was on a work-related trip British Columbia as the convention took place in Toronto. But he paid close attention as the election results rolled in.

He said he noticed while watching the convention how well all the candidates got along with one another.

"It wasn't one of those vicious leadership races that leaves a party in disarray. After this, I think we've created a huge liberal team across Ontario that's going to

help Kathleen get to be the premier again in the next election, if there is one in the upcoming future."

While Belcastro said local Liberals will be ready if an election is called, he said he doubts that will happen for awhile.

"I think that she's willing to sit down and work with the opposition leaders and not throw the people in Ontario into another election, because I don't think the people want that," he said. "Going into another election I don't think will help anyone."

Nevertheless, he said one of the first priorities of the riding association is "to make sure we're in election mode if need be."

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portraits



Your online source for Culture in Niagara

■ **MUNICIPAL FINANCE:** Councillors fail to budge 5.59% levy increase

Cutting tax hike 'a tough squeeze'

MARYANNE FIRTH
InPortNEWS Staff

PORT COLBORNE — After two lengthy nights of discussion, Port Colborne's proposed tax levy increase still sits at 5.59%.

City council held its second consecutive night of budget deliberations on Jan. 22, with staff this time outlining the capital costs the city will be facing in the coming year.

Despite moving through the capital list with a fine-toothed comb, removing some items and adding others, councillors ended the night without budging the potential tax hike.

"That 5.59% has got to come down," Mayor Vance Badawey told councillors toward the end of the evening, adding numbers

need to be crunched to find an additional \$200,000 to \$300,000 to cut.

"We've got to get it down to inflation."

To mitigate the proposed increase, services will need

Due to unforeseen costs faced by the city in 2013, including \$40,000 to demolish three properties obtained through failed tax sales and \$215,550 in lost revenues, Heil said it's going to be a "hard squeeze" to reduce the increase without making some significant cuts.

Council will participate in a business planning session at city hall on Monday, Feb. 4, beginning at 5:30 p.m. During the session, councillors will review the various services offered by the city and try to determine the way to "ensure the taxpayers get the best return on their investment," Badawey said.

"Revenue is key here," he stressed.

The revenue lost by the city is "to some extent within our control," he said, adding it's up to council to find ways to bring those revenue streams back up.

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■ **CONTEXT**

Quit smoking for a chance to win

PORT COLBORNE — Quitting smoking may be one of the hardest things to do, but it's also one of the best things smokers can do to improve their health.

Bridges Community Health Centre is holding its third annual Quit and Win Challenge for residents of Port Colborne, Port Erie and Wainfleet.

The incentive program is open to current smokers or smokers who quit in January who are 19 years old or older.

Participants must have a quit buddy and be smoke-free for the entire month of March to qualify to win.

Participants could win a \$100 gift card to a local merchant and a \$25 gift card for their buddy.

Bridges offers nicotine replacement products and group and individual counselling for people who qualify.

For more information contact Lori Kleinsmith at 289-479-5017 ext. 2445.

■ **MEDECINE**

Chiropractors showing they have a heart

QMI Agency Niagara

PORT COLBORNE — Some doctors understand that not everyone has medical benefits that include things such as chiropractic care, massage or acupuncture, but may still benefit from treatment.

Doctors With a Heart is a North American-wide initiative that asks doctors to offer free services in their com-

munities on designated days to treat people and help the community.

Chiropractic Associates of Port Colborne on Kilaly St. W. has taken part for more than 25 years.

On Wednesday, Feb. 13, it will offer services and assessments in exchange for donations to Women's Place of South Niagara.

Its shelters need dia-

pers and baby wipes, feminine hygiene products and new slippers, pajamas of all sizes, socks, sports bras and undergarments.

Monetary donations will also be accepted.

The clinic will accept patients from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. on a first-come, first-served basis. Space is limited.

For more information or to register call 905-835-1303.

SOME OF THE HIGHLIGHTS

\$120,000: New sidewalks on Kilaly St. W. and parallel parking to replace angled parking at Lions Field, paid for in part using \$70,000 in federal gas tax funds.

\$150,000: Replacement of Melissa's Memorial Playground at H.H. Knoll Lakeview Park, using \$50,000 set aside in 2012 and \$100,000 from development charges reserve.

\$20,000: Four decorative city entrance signs plus necessary surrounding landscaping.

\$4,000: Eight signs noting the four hamlets within the city.

\$900,000: Annual allocation to Port Colborne's road resurfacing program. Paid for in part with \$500,000 in federal gas tax funds.

\$300,000: Vehicles and equipment.

\$15,000: Increase security with lighting and security cameras in the city's "cultural block" containing the library and museum.

\$14,000: Solar lighting at two city parks — locations yet to be determined.

\$15,000: Set aside to assist with the cost of repairing the tennis courts at Centennial Park (estimated at a total \$30,000).

2012 tax levy: \$12.7 million. Actual spending for 2012 not yet available.

Proposed tax levy for 2013: \$13.4 million, including a \$709,460 or 5.59% levy increase

Total capital requests currently contained within the budget: \$1.19 million

■ **CRIME**

Senior faces sex allegations

QMI Agency Niagara

PORT ERIE — A 77-year-old Port Erie man faces sex-related charges, with one alleged offence dating back to 2008.

On Aug. 14, 2008, a male allegedly approached a young girl in the Salvation Army Store at 50 Clarence St. in Port Colborne. The male used a mirror to look underneath a young girl's dress, while she was in the store. The male was confronted by the girl's mother and quickly left the store, Niagara Regional Police said.

On July 19, 2012, a young girl was playing at H.H. Knoll Lakeview Park in Port Colborne, while her mother was nearby. The girl was using a slide when she was grabbed and sexually assaulted by a male. The male left riding his bicycle.

Police developed leads to both crimes and their investigation identified a male suspected as responsible for both occurrences.

Gerald Davis has been charged with sexual assault and voyeurism.

Police are appealing to the public to come forward with any information related to these two occurrences.

Information on crimes can be submitted anonymously using Crime Stoppers of Niagara. To leave an anonymous tip, contact Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-8477 (TIPS) or online at www.niagara-tips.com.

INPORT NEWS

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Ourview

Obama final obstacle to Keystone

As he embarked on his final term in office — the “legacy years” as history may call it — U.S. President Barack Obama delivered one of the more liberal inauguration speeches ever witnessed.

He had plenty to say about social justice and entitlements while standing up for the unsettled science that blames climate change largely on humanity’s shortsightedness and greed.

It made fiscal conservatives gag.

What about the tanking economy, and the fiscal cliff, they asked?

What about energy security?

And jobs?

These are good questions.

While Obama was turning into a liberal, Nebraska Gov. Dave Heineman finally gave thumbs-up to the adjusted Keystone XL pipeline route, and thereby removed the second-to-last obstacle to the flow of bitumen crude from the Alberta oil sands to U.S. refineries.

The last obstacle, of course, is Obama.

So what’s Obama to do after that little speech from Capitol Hill?

Does he opt for the needed energy security, the jobs and the billions of dollars in economic benefits that the Keystone XL will overtly deliver?

Or will Obama go with the words he delivered after his swearing-in ceremony? That “we will respond to the threat of climate change, knowing that the failure to do so would betray our children and future generations.”

Well, if Obama cares about his Democrats retaining the White House in 2016, he’ll drop the purple prose about climate change and opt for the Keystone XL.

With Nebraska finally giving its OK, Canada’s National Resources Minister Joe Oliver is counting on Obama to do the right thing for both Canada and the U.S.

Massachusetts Sen. John Kerry, slated to replace Hillary Clinton as Secretary of State and whose Senate confirmation hearings begin today, is the tree-hugger of tree-huggers.

Looks bad for Canada, doesn’t it?

Well, let’s just say that John Kerry didn’t achieve a net worth of \$193 million by being stupid.

Despite where his mouth is, Kerry has almost \$1 billion of his money invested in two Canadian-owned energy firms linked to Keystone.

We’re counting on Obama to be smart.

—Sun Media

■ I’VE BEEN THINKING

GORD ABRAHAM
For the InPort NEWS

There is an old saying, there are only two things for certain in life, death and taxes.

Just over one year ago, my mother-in-law died, rather unexpectedly.

Two days before her death, my wife and I had an inter-urging to go to Kitchener and spend the day with her. She was in fair health and could still get around. When we met her, she had the day planned with activities she wanted to do and which included going out for a big Swiss Chalet lunch, visiting some of the places from her childhood, eating an ice cream cone outside while sitting in her church’s parking lot and, above all, visiting the gravestone showroom to look at a stone she wanted for her all day grave.

It was going good for all of us but little did we know what was to follow. We returned home and the next afternoon received a call from family

that we needed to return to Kitchener, ASAP, because mom was in the hospital with congestive heart failure.

We arrived later that evening to find her weak and the doctors telling us she would not make it through the night. As we all settled in to watch over her, the wait began. Every pause between breaths drew us forward waiting for the last one.

As everyone fell asleep in chairs, I stayed awake. At about 3 a.m., Mom awoke, looked at me in the darkened room and said, “Is there a church near here? I hear beautiful music!”

Was God giving her the sound of heaven that her Saviour had prepared for her? She fell asleep. We left later to go and get some sleep. When we returned, my sister-in-law informed us Mom awakened around 6 a.m., looked around and said, “Oh, I’m still here.” She then she followed that up with a calm and peaceful look, saying, “Today is the day!”

■ COLUMN

Rockin’ in my old age



Ian Gillespie

LIGHTER SIDE

discover it was just my ears ringing.

As mature readers will know, this is what happens when you get older. (Did you say something? Sorry, you’ll have to speak up. And get the hell off my lawn.)

So you can imagine my joy — or at least the temporary absence of my normal feelings of grinding desolation — when I stumbled across a new rocking chair that can be used to charge an iPad.

This high-tech rocking chair is called the iRock (get it?) and is made by a company called Micasa Lab, which is based in Zurich, Switzerland. (At least I assume it is.) Switzerland. It might be Zurich, Ont., but I doubt that because those folks already have their hands full with the annual Bean Festival.)

According to the company’s web site, the iRock relies on a set of gears and

As my wife, Ruth, heard mom’s words of assurance that she would be leaving us that day and meeting Jesus, she asked her mom how she felt, knowing she would soon see Jesus. Mom looked at her with a huge smile and stated, “So peaceful!”

We had been given some extra time. We called as many of the grandchildren as could come and the entire Saturday was spent with her children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren all around her. There was talking, touching, smiling and story telling. The great-grandchildren were lying on her bed just as if they were in great Nana’s own bedroom.

Mom had words of counsel for some, smiles for all and at one point she took my hand, looked me in the eyes and said, “Gordie, don’t stop telling people about Jesus!” Words of counsel and encouragement, I go back to that commission from mom.

At a few minutes before 4 p.m. her breathing became

laboured. We could see a struggle for breath on her face. As she lay in the arms of two of her grandchildren, we all drew closer and, in our own ways, were all trying to keep her with us. But, at 4:10 we saw in her eyes she was leaving her body to go and be with the God who had purchased her salvation through the death of His Son, Jesus. She wasn’t with us anymore. She was gone from us in spirit but still in our love. We would only wish her back for ourselves.

It’s not over. It has only begun.

Mom is more alive now than she has ever been.

What will your story be? “What hope do you have for what is to come, smiles for all?” For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son, so that everyone who believes in Jesus, will not perish but have eternal life! John 3:16.

Rev. Gord Abraham ministers at Port Colborne Baptist Church

a tiny generator in its base to transform the rocking movement of the chair into electrical power.

If you use iRock for 60 minutes, you can recharge an iPad 3 to 35%, states a company spokesperson.

Handcrafted out of Swedish pine and available in five different colours (as opposed to five of the same colours), the iRock chair features an iPad stand and a set of built-in speakers in the back rest.

It’s a great idea. In fact, it’s a wonderfully whizz-bang way to help cracks and curmudgeons like me navigate the painful transition from an analog world (which features clocks with dials and cooing birds) into a digital world (which often features tiny screens, itchy-bitsy buttons and plenty of misspelled text messages).

And it got me thinking about a few other old-fashioned things that, with a bit of digital diligence,

might be transformed into something new and miraculous.

For example: Like many “nostalgic” devices, I like to gaze vacantly at my wall with slackened jaw. But if my open mouth could be used to capture WiFi signals, I could be anywhere and still watch funny videos of old people falling over.

Also, I have lots of lint in my pockets, which I like to collect beneath my fingernails while I’m staring wide-eyed and slack-jawed at modern things I don’t comprehend. If some digital genius could figure out how to turn this lint into clever Twitter comments, I’d have legions of followers and never feel alone again.

But some young genius will have to figure those things out. Right now, I’m going to lie down so I have enough energy later to power things up in my rocking chair.

■ OBITUARY: Founder of city's first synagogue dies at 98

Dwor backbone of Port's cultural scene

VICTORIA GRAY
InPortNEWS Staff

PORT COLBORNE—Libby Dwor loved living life to the fullest and threw herself into community project after project.

Her daughter, Linda Pollack, said she was a huge part of the Port Colborne community and she loved it dearly.

Mrs. Dwor died at her Port Colborne home Jan. 15 at the age of 98.

"She could be counted on to support anything and lead things when called upon," her daughter said.

Mrs. Dwor was born in Peterborough and moved to Port Colborne as a bride to be with husband Richard, at the age of 19, and fell in love with the community.

She later established Port Colborne's first synagogue. She chaired the Hebrew Ladies Society for many years. She was also involved with the Port Colborne



She could be counted on to support anything and lead things when called upon."

Linda Pollack, Dwor's daughter

Hospital Auxiliary, was a member and chair of Port Colborne Horticultural Society, was an avid member of Welland and Port Colborne curling clubs and was a director of Welland-Port Colborne Concert Association for which she remained an honorary director.

Her husband died of cancer in 1979 and she never remarried.

Mrs. Dwor was a member of and very active in the United Israel Appeal and chair of the Women's Campaign for the province of Ontario for more than 18 years.

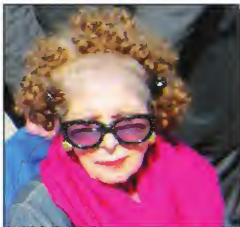
"She had an apartment in Toronto during

that time, but she never gave up her home in Port Colborne," her daughter said. "She loved this community, it was her home and where she raised children and built a life."

Mrs. Dwor was avid supporter of the arts, both in Niagara and in Israel where she financially supported a cultural centre for music and theatre.

"She used to say, 'I'm going to be dead for a very long time, so while I'm here I'm going live,'" her daughter said. "She had a wonderful life and she really did live every day to the fullest."

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Libby Dwor.

Submitted photo

IN BRIEF

NEW DISEASE POLICY

Niagara's public board has a revised policy that includes dealing with all communicable diseases and not just HIV/AIDS.

At last week's District School Board of Niagara meeting, trustees were told the policy advisory committee agreed it is appropriate to focus on all infectious and communicable diseases affecting students and staff.

Principals and staff who believe a student or staff member has a communicable disease are to report it to the medical officer of health, said the report approved by trustees.

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■ TELEVISION

Dragon's
Den in Falls

QMI Agency Niagara

NIAGARA FALLS — Niagara Falls is the latest audition site for prospective entrepreneurs seeking to appear on the CBC-TV show *Dragon's Den*.

The Falls gathering takes place Thursday, Jan. 31, from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. at Scotiabank Convention Centre, at 6815 Stanley Ave.

Producers will evaluate whether ideas presented are worthy of a televised pitch to their panel of business investors.

No experience is necessary and participants of all ages are invited, with a special call out to young entrepreneurs.

All interested candidates should be prepared to pitch their business in less than five minutes.

Successful local business candidates will be invited to Toronto for the next season's taping.

■ CENTENARIAN: Port Colborne woman celebrates 105th birthday

Lotta Fretz was 4 when Titanic sunk

VICTORIA GRAY
InPortNEWS Staff

I'm just an ordinary person. I just had a lot of great people helping me."

Lotta Fretz

PORT COLBORNE — Lotta Fretz believes the secret to long life is to not fret a lot.

The Port Colborne woman turned 105 on Jan. 16. She celebrated with about 50 other Port Village retirement home residents Tuesday afternoon.

Lotta was born in 1908, the year that cellophane, the tea bag and the Geiger counter were invented.

She was born before the first military tank, the first pop-up toaster and even before sliced bread, introduced in stores when she was 20.

She has four years old when the *Titanic* sunk.

Her secret to longevity: "Just staying happy and finding all the good things in life that give you joy because there are millions

all around us."

Lotta came from a very religious family and she never smoked, drank or went to night clubs. She thinks that helped her stay young of body, while the friendships and her education career which she both enjoyed helped her to stay young at heart.

She's still in relatively good health for a centenarian. She fell a coupe months ago and now uses a wheelchair, but only two years ago she was living at her home in Port Colborne

doing all of her own cooking and cleaning. "I still own that house and I would like to go back — even for a short time — but it's hard to leave the comforts and care here," she said.

When younger, she earned a PhD in English literature from Queen's University and became a high school English teacher in Hamilton.

She also spent 10 years working at the Andrew Mercer Reformatory for Women — the first woman's prison in Canada.

"I tried to make it a place of education and a place the world could model itself after," she said. "And we had a high reform rate."

Looking back on her life, Lotta says, "I'm just an ordinary person. I just had a lot of great people helping me."

victoria.gray@sunmedia.ca
Twitter: @VixeyG



VICTORIA GRAY Staff Photo

Lotta Fretz celebrates her 105th birthday at Port Village Retirement Home. She says the secret to a long life is happiness.

Nyon prehearing in February

MARYANNE FIRTH
InPortNEWS Staff

PORT COLBORNE — Port Colborne is moving one step

closer to seeing a determination made about Nyon Oil Inc.'s controversial energy park.

An Ontario Municipal Board prehearing will held Monday, Jan. 21 in city council chambers but was quite short-lived, said Port Colborne's chief administrative officer, Bob Bell.

After only a few minutes of discussion, the prehearing was adjourned to Feb. 20, when it will resume via teleconference. The adjournment will allow city council time to establish its official position regarding the proposed energy park.

That position is expected to be established on Tuesday, Feb. 12, during an open house and special city council meeting held in council chambers regarding the project. The open house starts at 5 p.m. followed by the meeting at 6:30.

City council made the decision in 2009 to deny official plan amendment and zoning changes required to build the park. Nyon has appealed that decision with the OMB.

Council's stance will help determine whether it is necessary to move forward with the OMB hearing scheduled for April.

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■ **POLITICS:** No perfect meeting attendance records for Port councillors

'A' for effort — despite absences

MARYANNE FIRTH
InPortNEWS Staff

PORT COLBORNE — Vance Badawey is giving city councillors an A for effort in 2012.

Although none of the councillors, nor the Port Colborne mayor himself, received a perfect score for meeting attendance, all made sure their seats were filled pretty consistently throughout the year.

Twenty-three combined regular committees-of-the-whole and council meetings were held last year.

Badawey missed one meeting during the year, while Ward 1 Councillors Dave Elliott and Bill Steele each missed



They all take their job very seriously."

Vance Badawey,
Port mayor

four meetings.

Ward 2 Councillors Angie Desmarais and Yvon Doucet missed two and five respectively, Ward 3 Councillors Bea Kenny and Frank Danch missed five and three respectively, and Ward 4 Councillors Ron Bodner and Barb Butters each missed four.

"I've been blessed with this and past councils. Attendance

has always been very good," said Badawey, who credited councillors for not only attending regular meetings, but also special meetings and meetings of the agencies, boards and commissions on which they sit.

Councillors have also each

taken initiative to get involved with other organizations and activities happening within the city.

Each has found their niche, he said, citing Steele with his involvement with community services, Doucet with the mayor's youth advisory

council, and Butters with her social services involvement, as just a few examples.

When councillors are unable to attend meetings, they make sure to make that absence known and always follow up to find out what they've missed, Badawey

said.

"We've got a great team here," he said, crediting councillors for their dedication.

"They all take the job very seriously. I'm very proud of them."

maryanne.firth@sunmedia.ca

NOTICE OF PUBLIC INFORMATION CENTRE #5 Niagara to GTA Corridor Planning and Environmental Assessment Study Phase 1

HIGHWAY EXPANSION OPTIONS

The Ontario Ministry of Transportation (MTO) has identified the preferred highway expansion options for the entire Niagara to GTA study area. The study area extends from Niagara Region and the U.S. border through the City of Hamilton to Halton Region.

You are invited to attend a Public Information Centre (PIC) to learn more about the highway expansion recommendations. The PICs will feature drop-in style open house sessions to allow members of the public to review display materials and provide comments on the study findings and recommendations. If you are unable to attend the PIC, the display materials will be available on the study website beginning February 12, 2013. Comments and questions may also be submitted via the study website at: www.niagara-gta.com.

The PICs will be held as follows:

Thursday, February 12, 2013

4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Holiday Inn Burlington

Halton Hall

3063 South Service Road, Burlington

Wednesday, February 13, 2013

4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Royal Canadian Legion

Upstairs Hall

383 Morningstar Avenue, Welland

Tuesday, February 19, 2013

4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Ancestor Fairgrounds

Mantit Hall

630 Trinity Road, RR #1, Jerseyville

THE STUDY

Phase 1 of this Planning and Environmental Assessment (EA) Study was initiated by MTO in support of the transportation objectives of the provincial *Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe*. The study is being undertaken in accordance with the Ontario *Environmental Assessment Act* (EA Act) and the Terms of Reference, which was approved by the Minister of the Environment in June 2006.

In March 2011, MTO released a draft Transportation Development Strategy (Strategy) that outlined several recommendations including support for enhanced transit, measures to optimize the existing transportation network, additional lanes on existing highways and new highways. Since the release of the draft Strategy, the Study Team carried out additional analysis of the previous recommendations for highway expansion and new highways. The analysis, findings and recommendations will be provided at the upcoming PICs for review and discussion.

COMMENTS

Comments and information regarding this study will be maintained on file for use during the project and may be included in project documentation to meet the requirements of the EA Act. Information collected will be used in accordance with the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act and the Access to Information Act. With the exception of personal information (e.g., name and address), all comments will become part of the public record.

For further information, or to be added to the mailing list for this study, please visit the study website or contact:

Mr. John Slobodzin
Project Coordinator
Ontario Ministry of Transportation
Provincial Planning Office
301 St. Paul Street, 2nd Floor
St. Catharines, ON L2R 7R4
tel: 905-704-2204
fax: 905-704-2007

Mr. Paul Hudspeth, P.Eng.
Consultant Project Manager
URS Canada Inc.
30 Leek Crescent, 4th Floor
Richmond Hill, ON L4N 4N4
tel: 905-882-4401
fax: 905-882-4399

If you have any accessibility requirements in order to participate in this project, please contact one of the Study Team members listed above.

Visit us online at: www.niagara-gta.com
Contact us by e-mail at: project_team@niagara-gta.com

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■ OMB: Planning document does not conform with provincial policies

Queen's Park taking Wainfleet OP to OMB

ALLAN BENNER
InPortNews Staff

WAINFLEET — The provincial government is taking Wainfleet's new official plan to the Ontario Municipal Board.

Shortly after the official plan was approved by Niagara Region on Oct. 25, the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing launched an OMB appeal saying the document does not conform to the Provincial Policy Statement, Wainfleet Mayor April Jeffs said.

She said the provincial government concerns seem to be related to elements of the plan that were regional in nature, rather than issues that are "of great concern" to most residents.

A Nov. 16 letter from the ministry lists five specific reasons for the appeal, including:

■ The township's official plan (OP) policy for site alterations adjacent to natural heritage features says "over the long term, there will be no significant negative impact" which is not consistent with the "no negative impact" test in the PPS.

■ The OP "prohibits development and site alteration within provincially-significant life science areas of natural and scientific interest, which is more

restrictive than, and not consistent with, the PPS as it relates to mineral aggregate resources."

■ The OP "includes unclear and inconsistent policy directives with respect to mineral aggregate resources."

■ It permits "infrastructure not authorized through a municipal, provincial or federal environmental assessment process within or adjacent to a provincially-significant wetland, subject to an environmental impact assessment which is not consistent with the PPS."

■ And fish habitat and non-provincially significant wetland mapping "is inconsistent with the policy directives and incorrectly designated.... This will create implementation challenges and result in decisions which are not consistent with the PPS."

Jeffs said the next steps will be to meet with township representatives to discuss the concerns "and see what changes they really want."

From there, she said, "it'll be brought back to regional and township councils to decide whether or not to accept the changes, and once that happens there will be a short OMB hearing."

Dates for those meetings have not been determined.

allan.benner@sunmedia.ca

■ CRIME: Investigation continues — no charges laid

\$3.4 million in loose tobacco seized

QMI Agency Niagara

PORT ERIE — A total of \$3.4 million in loose tobacco has been seized by Canada Border Services Agency officers in two separate seizures at the Queenston-Lewiston Bridge and the Peace Bridge in Fort Erie.

On Jan. 16, a transport driver arrived at the Queenston-Lewiston Bridge with a shipment containing 132 boxes that were declared as recycled paper. During a secondary examination, officers noticed that labels may have been removed from each box and replaced

by other labels.

The boxes were found to contain 13,200 kg of manufactured raw cut tobacco with an estimated value of \$1.7 million.

On the same day, a driver carrying a sea container was referred for secondary examination at the Peace Bridge. The goods were declared as herbal leaf formulation, but were found to be 99 boxes containing 13,464 kilograms of loose tobacco with an estimated value of \$1.7 million.

No charges have been laid. The investigations continue.

■ ENTERTAINMENT

Tuvok at Comic Con in Falls

Star Wars is already accounted for. Now, the Niagara Falls Comic Con will have some Star Trek as well.

Tim Russ, who played Lt. Commander Tuvok on *Star Trek: Voyager*, will appear at the June 8 and 9 event at the Scotiabank Convention Centre. The actor played several minor roles in the

franchise before landing the role on *Voyager*, which ran for seven seasons from 1995 to 2001.

Also announced this week is legendary comic artist George Perez.

Tickets are \$20 per day or \$30 for a weekend pass. www.NFallsComicCon.com.



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■ **PLANNING:** Township supports City of Toronto resolution

Get rid of OMB: Wainfleet council, but not mayor

DAVE JOHNSON
InPortNews Staff

WAINFLEET — Getting rid of the Ontario Municipal Board, or OMB as it is called, is an independent administrative board which hears applications and appeals on municipal and planning disputes, including appeals under the Planning Act. Members are appointed by the provincial government.

On Tuesday, in a recorded vote, aldermen recently voted 4-1 in favour of supporting a request from Toronto city council to call for disbanding

the board.

The Ontario Municipal Board, or OMB as it is called, is an independent administrative board which hears applications and appeals on municipal and planning disputes, including appeals under the Planning Act. Members are appointed by the provincial government.

"It makes total sense to me. The OMB are unelected officials," said Ald. Betty Konec.

Konec said she understood the OMB is a mechanism for people to appeal decisions made by councils, but said its members aren't always familiar with municipalities, like Wainfleet, and how things are done.

"The decisions made by them line up with developers most often," she added.

Mayor April Jeffs said residents called her about the request from Toronto to sup-

port its call for disbanding the board and were frightened to think they wouldn't have that level to appeal to.

"I tend to agree with them. We all think we're doing the right thing, but we could get a council down the road from now that is all for development or against... down the road we may need the OMB," said the mayor.

Jeffs said residents in the

community have gone to the OMB to appeal decisions, most recently on council's interim control bylaw.

"Residents were very upset with us and challenged it. Even though they weren't successful at least we had an opportunity to take us to the OMB. For us, it reaffirmed that we did the right thing."

Jeffs said there is a definite need for the board and said if

aldermen were not on council, they probably wouldn't want to see it disappear.

The mayor called for a recorded vote on the issue, something she said she's never done before.

Ald. Betty Konec, Richard Dykstra, Ted Hessels and David Wyatt all voted in favour of calling for disbanding of the board. Mayor April Jeffs voted against the motion.



NOTICE TO CITIZENS APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS AND COMMITTEES

The City of Port Colborne is accepting applications from citizens for positions on the following boards and committees. The vacancies are due to the expiry of current appointments or resignations or insufficient applications in response to prior recruitments. Positions are available on the following Boards/Committees:

- Heritage Port Colborne (Local Architectural Conservation Advisory Committee)
- Port Colborne Historical and Marine Museum Board
- Environmental Advisory Committee
- Port Colborne Physician Recruitment, Retention and Medical Education Committee
- Port Colborne Public Library Board
- Port Colborne Seniors Advisory Council

Appointments to fill expired terms will be for four years. Appointments to fill other vacancies will be for the term of the original appointment. Incumbent members whose terms are expiring are eligible to apply and to be reappointed to the same Committee provided they maintain the eligibility requirements.

On November 10, 2008, Council adopted a policy respecting appointments to boards and committees. This policy establishes the process relating to the recruitment, selection and appointment of members of the public to boards and committees and the City's expectations of such appointees. The policy requires that the successful applicants consent to the release by the City of their name and personal information relating to their education, qualifications and experience which is pertinent to the appointment. Council will release the name of an unsuccessful applicant only with the written consent of the applicant. Please visit the City's website www.portcolborne.ca to access the full text of the policy and a brief description of the mandate of the above Committees, etc.

Unless the terms of reference of the board/committee provide otherwise, applicants must:

- be eighteen years of age or older
- a qualified municipal elector in the City of Port Colborne
- not be disqualified by the *Municipal Act, 2001*, *Municipal Election Act, 1996* or the *Planning Act*
- not be an employee of the City of Port Colborne or the board.

Applicants must provide sufficient information regarding their qualifications and related experience for Council to make an informed decision. The standard form of application is available on the City's website and/or from the Clerk's Office.

Applications in person, by e-mail or regular mail will be received by the undersigned up to and including February 15, 2013.

Ashley Grigg, City Clerk
City Hall, 66 Charlotte Street
Port Colborne, Ontario L3K 3C8
ashleygrigg@portcolborne.ca
(905) 835-2900 ext. 106

Personal information is collected under authority of the *Municipal Act, 2001* and pursuant to the *Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act* and will be used only to evaluate the suitability of applicants. Questions respecting the collection of information should be directed to the Clerk of the City of Port Colborne.

■ **OBITUARY:** Former newspaperman became priest

Rev. Stocks a strong advocate for the deaf

VICTORIA GRAY
InPortNews Staff

WELLAND — Rev. Henry Andrew (Harry) Stocks spent his life breaking down barriers by building walls.

In 1965, the same year Stocks became a Catholic priest, he went to Bangalore, India, and met many deaf children who didn't have a school and were seen as dumb, unproductive members of society.

He spent the next 38 years building and maintaining a school, a workers education centre and a technical training school to make sure the children who entered the school would get jobs and destroy the stigma.

Rev. Stocks died at the age of 77 at Hospice Niagara on Saturday, Jan. 19 after battling cancer for more than a decade.

He was diagnosed with spleen cancer in India and returned to Welland where he continued to fight for deaf people's rights and their advancement in both India and Canada.

Rev. Stocks gave mass in sign language through many years of his illness.

Rev. Jim Mulligan, a longtime friend of Rev. Stock, said he was a one-of-a-kind man.

"He will be greatly missed. It's a loss to his friends and most profoundly it's a loss to the deaf Catholics with which he worked," he said.

Mulligan said he also had a wonderful sense of humour.

"If you became a friend of Harry's, you were a friend for life," he said. "And he sought out friends and because of his work had friends all over the world."

Rev. Stocks was born and



Supplied photo
Rev. Henry (Harry) Stocks died at Hospice Niagara Jan. 19.

raised in Edinburgh, Scotland, where he found a passion for journalism and worked as a message boy at one of Scotland's daily newspapers. The newspaperman moved to Canada in 1956 and got a job as a copy editor with the *Toronto Telegram* before moving to Port Colborne, where he worked for a weekly publication.

Rev. Stocks felt like something was missing in his life and joined the priesthood. He was ordained in 1966.

Rev. Don Belby said as soon as he met Stocks he knew his fellow priest was a passionate, dynamic intensely driven man.

"He would go after whatever he thought would help those in need," Belby said.

Rev. Stocks is survived by his sister-in-law Mary Stocks, brother Andy and sister Winifred all living in Scotland.

A funeral service was held Jan. 22 at St. Kevin's Roman Catholic church on Niagara St.

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■ **POLICE:** Weapons seized – and relationships formed – by special officers

School patrol by special NRP unit pays off

DAN DAKIN
QMI Agency Niagara

Five knives, A replica handgun, Various drugs and related paraphernalia.

Those are among the weapons and narcotics Niagara Regional Police have confiscated from area high schools over the past four months.

Parents may well be troubled to know

teenage students are walking into their schools carrying items like that — plus brass knuckles and pellet guns, which were also seized.

But it's encouraging to know they're get-

ting caught by a special unit of the NRP.

Launched as a pilot program in 2007, the school resource officer unit was expanded to seven officers from four at the start of the 2012-13 school year.

From Sept. 5 through Dec. 31, those officers responded to 284 calls and made 49 arrests.

More than 150 youths were put through a pre-charge diversion process known as the extrajudicial measures referral program, which is an option for young offenders who police feel can be taught a lesson through community service rather than going through the courts.

"I think it's a great alternative, because it's keeping them out of the court system and hopefully it's getting them the help they need," said Const. Brian Knight.

"It's more than just a slap on the wrist. It's holding them accountable."

The seven officers are spread throughout the region's 30 secondary schools, with three working the high schools in St. Catharines, one in Niagara Falls, one in Grimsby, one in Fort Erie and Port Colborne and one in Welland and Pelham.

Const. Neil Ridley said it's a misconception that some schools are less susceptible to drugs or weapons being brought in than others.

"No one high school is any worse than another," he said.

"It's the same at every high school."

Police won't reveal the quantity of drugs confiscated over the past four months, but NRP spokesman Const. Derek Watson said 46 of the 284 calls responded to were drug-related. For weapons, five knives, one replica handgun and an air pistol were seized.

What the officers have found is their increased presence has led to a better relationship with the students.

"You get some insight," said Const. Chris Stile.

"We get a great understanding of the

culture and how things happen at the schools."

Ridley agrees.

"The relationships you build with the students — they realize you're a human being. That's the success we see," he said. "Everything is on their terms. They can reach out to you."

Carol Purser agrees.

"The kids really view them as friends instead of enemies," said Purser, superintendent of secondary schools for the District School Board of Niagara.

"It creates a positive view of the police officer being in the school instead of just for a crisis situation. The kids get to know that officer, so they'll approach them and ask small questions they would never normally call the police about."

Sgt. Chris Stewart, who oversees the program, said he would like to see more officers added in the future.

"Maybe we can justify that next year or the year after," he said. "There are more calls for service because they're there ... What we're doing is proactive."

The principal at St. Catharines Collegiate said that proactive approach might stop a student from making a decision that could land them in handcuffs.

"During the recent student protests, the (school officer) came in and spoke with the students about some of the risks and educated them about what can happen in situations where lots of students are together outside the building," said Lon Courtois.

"They're present during particular times that you want to have extra visibility in the school."

She also expects the NRP's program could lead to more local police recruits down the road.

"Students really connect with them when it comes to career planning in the law enforcement field," Courtois said. "There are a lot of young people that want to pursue it."

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BOB TYMCZYSHYN QMI Agency Niagara

Niagara Regional Police Sgt. Chris Stewart looks over a screen shot of drugs, weapons and paraphernalia seized from local high schools.

■ **JUNIOR A HOCKEY:** Port Colborne scores 23 goals in back-to-back wins

Pirates burying treasure at record rate

BERND FRANK
InPortNews Staff

PORT COLBORNE — Zach DeConcillis and Dima Lavrenov each scored two goals and Real Cormier made 31 saves as the Port Colborne Pirates downed the visiting Stoney Creek Warriors 8-2 in junior B hockey on Sunday.

Blaine Bechard, Pol Gonzalez, Charlie Izaguirre and Paul Moskalyk rounded out the scoring for a Pirates team that over the past two games has buried treasure into the back of net at a record rate.

On Friday night the Don Cherry's Port Colborne Pirates defeated the Buffalo Blades 15-3, also on their home ice at Westside Arena.

Sunday afternoon's victory before a announced crowd of 193 was Port Colborne's fourth in a row and eighth in nine games. With the win, the Pirates improved to 29-11-0-2

and moved into second place in the Greater Ontario Junior Hockey League's Golden Horseshoe Conference, one point ahead of the 29-11-0-1 Welland Junior Canadians who played host to the league-leading St. Catharines Falcons on Sunday night.

Results of that game were not available at press time, but a summary is posted online at www.wellandtribune.ca and a full report will appear in Tuesday's print edition.

The Pirates outshot Stoney Creek 33-31 as they defeated the Warriors for the sixth time in six starts this season.

Port Colborne finished Sunday's game 1-for-5 on the power play while preventing the Warriors from scoring on their six opportunities with a man advantage.

On Thursday night the Pirates tied the Thorold Blackhawks before hosting the Port Erie Meteors in an

8 p.m. faceoff the following day at Westside Arena.

PIRATES 15, BLADES 3

One-time Buffalo Blades forward Bryan Komarsa and Bechard each had three goals and two assists as Port Colborne handed Buffalo its 21st straight loss.

Lavrenov, with two goals and three assists; league scoring leader Dayne Phillips, one goal, four assists; and Trevor Smith, one goal, two assists; also enjoyed multiple-point nights Friday.

Nick Berst, acquired from Buffalo just before the Jan. 10 junior B trade deadline, Dylan Burdick, Nathan Judd Warren, Zoren Poppel and Michael Sharp rounded out the scoring for Pirates who outshot their visitors 46-28.

Tyler Kessler, with two goals; and Tom Hanna replied for the 1-43-0-1 Blades who lost their 21st game in row dating back to a 5-3 victory



JOE CSEH for InPortNews
Port Colborne Pirates forward Dima Lavrenov attempts to score on Stoney Creek Warriors goaltender Richard Blake on a penalty shot in Sunday afternoon junior B hockey action at Westside Arena in Port Colborne. He just missed by hitting the goal post.

over Port Colborne for their only win of the season so far.
Morgan Hudson made

25 saves between the pipes for the Pirates who finished Friday night's game 3-for-3

on the power play. Buffalo was 1-for-3 with a man advantage.

REMINDER: NOTICE OF FINAL PUBLIC MEETING

To be held by Niagara Region Wind Corporation regarding a Proposal to Engage in a Renewable Energy Project

Project Name: Niagara Region Wind Farm

Project Location: The proposed project is located within Haldimand County and Niagara Region (including the Townships of Wainfleet and West Lincoln and the Town of Lincoln). If approved, this facility would have a total maximum name plate capacity of 230 MW, consisting of 77 turbines (80 potential locations have been identified).

The project team will be holding a series of Public Meetings, as required under section 16(1) of Ontario Regulation 359/09.

The purpose of these meetings will be to present the findings of the Draft Renewable Energy Approval (REA) Reports and proposed revisions to the Draft Site Plan, released in August 2012.

We are offering multiple meeting locations and dates for this event. The sessions will be drop-in style, and each session will be identical so that you can attend whichever session is most convenient. Due to the level of interest we have received for this project, we encourage you to attend any of the sessions, as there may be a brief wait to enter the venue at some venues. Your cooperation and patience is appreciated.

Tuesday February 5, 2013	Town of Grimsby: Peach King Centre Auditorium, 162 Livingston Avenue, Grimsby, 1:00 - 4:00 p.m. Town of Lincoln: Bied Hall, 4650 South Service Road, Beamsville, 5:30 - 8:30 p.m.
Wednesday February 6, 2013	Town of Pelham: Old Pelham Town Hall, 491 Canboro Road, Ridgville, 1:00 - 4:00 p.m. Township of West Lincoln: Wellandport Community Centre, 5042 Canboro Road (RR#63), Wellandport, 4:30 - 10 p.m. <i>(please note the extended hours at this location)</i>
Thursday February 7, 2013	Township of Wainfleet: Firefighters' Memorial Community Hall, 31907 Park Street, Wainfleet, 1:00 - 4:00 p.m. Haldimand County: Lowbanks Community Centre, 2633 Northshore Drive, Lowbanks, 5:30 - 8:30 p.m.

Project Contacts and Information:

To learn more about the project, or to communicate questions or comments, please contact:

Project Email Address: info@nrwc.ca

Project Website: www.nrwc.ca

Project Phone Number: 905-390-3306 or 1-855-720-2892 (toll free)

Robert Daniels, Vice President
Niagara Region Wind Corporation
277 Lakeshore Road East, Suite 211
Oakville, ON L6J 6J3

J.A. (Al) Leggett, BA, MCIP, RPP
Project Manager, Stantec Consulting Ltd.
300 - 675 Cochrane Drive West Tower
Markham, ON L3R 0B8

Information will be collected and used in accordance with the Environmental Protection Act and Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act. This information will be used to assist NRWC in meeting applicable environmental approvals requirements. This material will be maintained on file for use during the project and may be included in project documentation. Unless indicated otherwise, personal information and all comments will become part of the public record and publicly released as part of project documentation.

■ **HOCKEY:** Marcel Dionne receives Stanley Cup ring

Ring fit for scoring King

CORY SMITH
QMI Agency Niagara

NIAGARA FALLS — Marcel Dionne is no longer the King with no ring.

For years, players such as Serge Savard, Yvon Cournoyer, Guy Lapointe and Guy Lafleur — part of the Montreal Canadiens 1970s dynasty — used to tease Dionne, 61, who accomplished almost everything during his illustrious Hall of Fame career, except win a Stanley Cup.

The former Habs would playfully rub their knuckles while around Dionne to draw attention to their rings.

"Now, when I go somewhere, I say you can't make fun of me," Dionne said with a laugh last week at his memorabilia business in Niagara Falls.

The Los Angeles Kings first-time leading scorer received a Stanley Cup ring

on Saturday, Jan. 19 before the team raised its banner to open an abbreviated NHL season. Current team president and chief executive officer Tim Leiweke surprised Dionne before the opening ceremony.

"He says, 'Here it is,'" Dionne said. "He got down on his knees. He said, 'Thank you, Marcel. It's well deserved. I never crossed my mind. They hand out rings to staff, doctors ... (but) they didn't play."

"It's about legacy, no doubt about that,"

The Drummondville, Que., native, who played junior B for three seasons in St. Catharines, holds the Kings record for most points (1,307) and most assists (757), but he was never surrounded by the kind of championship talent his friends playing on the Canadiens enjoyed.

In 11 full seasons with Los Angeles, Dionne only com-



Hockey legend and former Los Angeles King Marcel Dionne with the Stanley Cup Ring he received from the team recently. **MIKE DIBATTISTA** QMI Agency Niagara

peted in 43 playoff games. In 1981-82, Dionne was part of the Miracle on Manchester when the Kings upset the heavily-favoured Edmonton Oilers in five games.

Dionne and legendary goalie Rogatien Vachon — who also received a ring — helped carry the 2011-12

championship banner during the pre-game ceremony at the Staples Center. Also involved was the family of a victim in the Sandy Hook school shooting in Newtown, Conn.

"That was really emotional with that family. That was a great, great thing for what they've done," Dionne said.

Marcel Dionne is the second member of his family to own a Stanley Cup ring. His younger brother, Gilles, was part of the 1992-93 Canadiens who defeated, of all teams, the Kings.

The ring "is for all the guys" who fought in their quest to win a championship for Los Angeles, said Dionne, who

retired in 1989.

From now on, no matter how the story is told — and there will be many versions — Dionne will have to be introduced as a Hall of Famer, scorer of 1,771 points, and the proud owner of a Stanley Cup ring.

"This is the closing chapter in my hockey life."

■ JUNIOR B HOCKEY

Pirates overcome penalty problems for victory

Inport News Staff

The Stoney Creek Warriors didn't take advantage of several power play opportunities which led to a 3-1 decision for the Port Colborne Pirates.

Out of six powerplays awarded to them during the Thursday, Jan. 24 game, the Warriors only managed to take advantage of one.

But Stoney Creek's defense was impenetrable, and wouldn't allow the Don Cherry's Port Colborne Pirates to score on any of their three power plays.

Dima Lavrenov opened the scoring for the Pirates 13:29 into the first period. The next time a puck passed the pipes, Alexander Zaccaria picked up a goal on a power play for Stoney Creek.

At 17:10 in the third period,



Charlie Izaguirre collected another point for the Pirates, followed by Zach DeConcilly who scored and sealed the victory for Port Colborne.

Between the pipes for Port Colborne, Real Cormier rejected 18 shots. Port Colborne incurred 14 minutes in penalty time with seven minors and ran into disciplinary problems during the game resulting in Lavrenov being ejected from the game.

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■ **PUBLIC SAFETY:** Chief wants to modernize appearance of fleet

Police considering new-look cruisers



DAN DAKIN
QMI Agency Niagara

Niagara Regional Police cruisers patrolling the streets of Niagara might soon have a new look.

At a police board meeting Thursday, Jan. 24 Chief Jeff McGuire said the service is considering rebranding the cruisers with a more modern look.

"From time to time it's good for any organization to do a little bit of rebranding," he said.

McGuire said if the police board approves the move, he would like to see the update start within about six months.

He said frontline officers

will have a say in the new appearance.

"It's their office. They're in (the cars) 24 hours a day," McGuire said. "So give them the opportunity to have a vote, and maybe have some citizen input as well. Within reason, of course."

The cost and schedule for replacing cruisers this year was also dealt with.

The board approved the NRP's request to spend \$807,000 to replace 29 vehicles, including marked cruisers, investigative and administrative units and specialty vehicles like ATVs and personal watercraft.

That represents the first half of the NRP's \$1.6 million vehicle spending plan

for 2013.

During the discussion about the costs, some board members asked for more specific breakdowns of which vehicles would be replaced and how they were being used.

"I just want a better understanding of what I'm dealing with here, whether it's \$10 or \$100,000 or \$15 million," said board member Kenneth Gansel after the meeting.

"It's important to know the details before one makes a decision. It's public money that's being spent, so the board has a financial and judiciary obligation to make sure things are done correctly."

McGuire said he understands the scrutiny.

"I fully respect the role of the board ... it's our job to get them that information," he said.

"The oversight helps keep us more accountable."

The NRP has close to 350 vehicles in its fleet. They travelled a combined 8.3 million kilometres in 2012.

Vehicles are replaced after they hit 200,000 kilometres, have been on the road for five years or if they're deemed unsafe due to a collision or other major problem.

"Even with your own personal car, you know how they can get when they start getting up around 200,000 kilometres," McGuire said. "These are service vehicles that get a pretty rough ride. They're not always driven like family cars."

"The program we have is cost-effective for the region to have the vehicles replaced in the most efficient manner."

There's some urgency to get the 2013 vehicle order into GM because the company has announced the Impala Police Packaged Vehicle, which the NRP uses, is being discontinued and all orders must be placed by March.

Retired police vehicles are auctioned off, with proceeds going back into the NRP's capital reserve fund.

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■ **SOCIAL SERVICES:** \$1.9 million in one-time funding made available

Gant could extend benefit to disabled

JEFF BOLICHOWSKI
QMI Agency Niagara

THOROLD — People with developmental or physical disabilities might get a bit of help as Niagara Region mulls over how to spend nearly \$1.9 million in one-time social services funding.

The money was handed down by the province late last year to help the region change over from the loss of the Community Start-Up and Maintenance Benefit, a key housing fund drawn on by the needy in emergencies.

A memo that headed to regional noted the money could be put toward expanding the benefit — which is being covered by the region this year — to the disabled.

Ontario Disability Support Payment recipients were left out when regional council approved a housing plan to cover the loss, but the grant money changes the situation, said community services commissioner Katherine Chislett.

"If we had the money, we would've helped those folks. We have the money now," she said.

She said regional council's public

health and social services committee will get a report Jan. 29 detailing what it can do with the money. She said one of the options would be using it to help the disabled.

The region spent much of last fall wrestling with the devastating cut to the benefit, which is drawn on often by the needy to cover emergency expenses or last month's rent payments. The province axed it when it switched to a new funding model, slashing funding to the region by 52% — a \$2.6-million hit.

The province eventually gave ground in the face of intense lobbying efforts and announced the one-time funding just after Christmas, days before the benefit was set to expire.

"We're not in the plus. We're still minus," Chislett said, "It doesn't entirely bridge the gap."

She said the region is still piecing together its final proposal, but helping the disabled would be among the recommendations.

It's the one YWCA Niagara executive director Elisabeth Zimmerman is hoping for.

"I think it's a great move. It's what I was hoping to see, that they

would reinstate it for ODSP," she said.

She said it's too early in the year to gauge the impact from elimination of the benefit. But while she praised the one-time funding, she

said she's concerned it's still only transitional cash.

Community Care of St. Catharines and Thorold executive director Betty-Lou Souter said putting the money toward the disabled

would be ideal.

"I would certainly think it's going to get us back to, not quite where we were before, but close."

jeff.bolichowski@sunmedia.ca

■ **APPLICATIONS WANTED:** Up to four \$500 rewards available

Bursary available to seniors care students

MARYANNE FIRTH
InPortNews Staff

WELLAND — Rose City Seniors Centre Foundation wants to give back to the community while also ensuring future care for local seniors.

The foundation recently announced it is seeking applicants for the newly-created Rose City Seniors Centre Foundation Bursary Award. Up to four \$500 bursaries will be handed out to individuals pursuing post-secondary education in a field that will directly benefit the care of seniors.

"We want to give back to the community because they've been such a great support," said bursary committee chair Nancy Curran.

"We're so excited to be able to do something for other people."

Information regarding the bursary has been sent out to the guidance offices at area high schools and is available at Welland Public Library and Welland Community Wellness Complex.

"We're advertising it as much as we can," Curran said, hopeful there

will be several applicants eager for the opportunity.

Residents of Welland, Pelham, Port Colborne and Wainfleet are eligible to apply and there is no age restriction in place.

Applicants must provide a letter of acceptance from the post-secondary institution they plan to attend, which should include the field of study. If the letter is not available prior to the submission deadline, it must be presented as soon as it's available.

Applicants must also provide proof of volunteer experience and community involvement with seniors, including a letter of reference, as well as a 250-word explanation of why the choice was made to work with seniors. A second letter of reference is also required.

For more information on the bursary, e-mail foundation@welland.ca. It should be noted, however, that applications will not be accepted by e-mail and must instead be dropped off at Welland Community Wellness Complex, 145 Lincoln St., by 4 p.m. on Friday, May 10.

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Diamond Trail Public School
315 Southworth Street, Welland
(905) 734-3730

E.I. McCulley Public School
16 Berkley Drive, St. Catharines
(905) 934-7344

E.W. Farr Public School**
9 Alsop Avenue,
Fenwick
(905) 892-3251

Edith Cavell Public School
1 Monck Street,
St. Catharines
(905) 684-6545

Ferndale Public School
35 Ferndale Avenue, St. Catharines
(905) 684-1101

Fitch Street Public School
164 Fitch Street, Welland
(905) 732-3683

Forestview Public School**
8406 Forestview Blvd.,
Niagara Falls
(905) 354-6261

Gainsborough Public School
5459 Highway 20 RR #2, St. Catharines
(905) 356-6223

Garrison Road Public School
1110 Garrison Road, Fort Erie
(905) 871-4830

General Vanier Public School
105 Torrance Street, Fort Erie
(905) 871-5962

Glen Ridge Public School**
101 South Drive, St. Catharines
(905) 685-9586

Glendale Public School**
24 Farnham Avenue, Welland
(905) 735-5213

Glynn & Green Public School**
1353 Pelham Street, Fort Hill
(905) 932-3821

Gordon Public School**
468 Thorold Rd. W., Welland
(905) 934-3331

Gracefield Public School
117 Bayview Drive, St. Catharines
(905) 934-1411

Grand Avenue Public School
14 Grand Avenue, Grimsby
(905) 945-2227

Grapevine Public School
106 First Street, South, St. Catharines
(905) 884-5517

Greendale Public School
5504 Montrose Road, Niagara Falls
(905) 358-8111

Heximer Avenue Public School
6727 Heximer Avenue, Niagara
(905) 356-0932

Jacob Beam Public School**
4300 William St., Beamsville
(905) 563-8209

James Morden Public School
7112 Dorchester Road, Niagara Falls
(905) 356-5011

John Marshall Public School**
3910 St. James Avenue, Niagara Falls
(905) 358-3711

Jordan Public School
2811 Regional Rd. 81, Jordan
(905) 562-7491

Kate S. Durdan Public School**
6855 Kalar Road, Niagara Falls
(905) 356-0488

Lakeview Public School**
33 Olive Street, Grimsby
(905) 945-5427

Lincoln Centennial Public School
348 Scott Street, St. Catharines
(905) 937-5110

Lockview Public School**
505 Bunting Road, St. Catharines
(905) 934-3331

Martha Cullimore Public School**
3155 St. Andrew Ave., Niagara Falls
(905) 358-5142

Mathews Public School
315 Southworth Street, Welland
(905) 934-3208

Maywood Public School**
140 Haig Street, St. Catharines
(905) 685-8451

McKay Public School
320 Fielden Avenue, Port Colborne
(905) 834-4753

Meadowdale Public School
63 Cecil Street, St. Catharines
(905) 352-4252

Memorial Public School
17 Welland Avenue, St. Catharines
(905) 685-7347

Nelles Public School**
118 Main Street East, Grimsby
(905) 945-8022

Oakridge Public School**
1 Marsdale Avenue, St. Catharines
(905) 684-6589

Oakwood Public School**
255 Omar Avenue, Port Colborne
(905) 834-9732

Ontario Public School
550 Allanburg Road, Thorold
(905) 227-2851

Orchard Park Public School
3691 Dorchester Road, Niagara Falls
(905) 354-3516

Park Public School**
217 Main Street East, Grimsby
(905) 945-2445

Parliament Oak Public School**
325 King Street, Niagara on the Lake
(905) 468-4253

Parnall Public School**
507 Geneva Street, St. Catharines
(905) 934-3348

Pine Grove Public School**
690 Lake Street, St. Catharines
(905) 935-1901

Plymouth Public School
111 First Street, Welland
(905) 732-4110

Port Weller Public School
273 Farnell Road, St. Catharines
(905) 934-3322

Power Glen Public School
34 Westland Street, St. Catharines
(905) 684-7425

Prince of Wales (N) Public School
595 Facer Street, St. Catharines
(905) 937-2225

Prince of Wales (S) Public School
40 Pine Street, Thorold
(905) 227-1321

Prince Philip (N) Public School
1344 York Road, 600 Vine Street, St. Catharines
(905) 684-6589

Princess Elizabeth Public School**
330 Schofield Avenue, Welland
(905) 734-3460

Princess Margaret Public School
6624 Culp Street, Niagara Falls
(905) 354-2333

Quaker Road Public School**
333 Quaker Road, Welland
(905) 732-5412

Richmond Street Public School
153 Richmond Street, Thorold
(905) 227-2971

Ridgeway Public School**
143 Ridge Road, Ridgeway
(905) 894-3751

River View Public School
3300 Cattell Drive, Niagara Falls
(905) 289-3251

Ross Public School**
358 Niagara Street, Welland
(905) 734-4273

Senator Gibson Public School
4544 John Street, Beamsville
(905) 563-7431

Sheridan Park Public School**
114 Linwell Road, St. Catharines
(905) 937-0510

Simcoe Street Public School
4760 Simcoe Street, Niagara Falls
(905) 358-9121

Smith Public School**
18 Oaker Road, Grimsby
(905) 945-8014

St. David's Public School
1344 York Road, St. David's
(905) 262-4533

Steele Street Public School**
214 Steele Street, Port Colborne
(905) 834-4333

Stevensville Public School
3521 Main Street East, Stevensville
(905) 382-3122

Valley Way Public School
5315 Valley Way, Niagara Falls
(905) 356-6611

Victoria Public School**
5635 Heritage Drive, Niagara Falls
(905) 354-1321

Vineland Public School
4057 Victoria Avenue N. Vineland
(905) 562-5211

Westdale Public School
474 Central Avenue, Fort Erie
(905) 227-3827

Westmont Public School
73 Ann Street West, Thorold
(905) 227-3827

William E. Brown Public School
31870 Lee Street, Wainfleet
(905) 899-3471

Winger Public School**
53220 Winger Road, Wainfleet
(905) 899-3821

Woodland Public School**
1511 7th Street, St. Catharines
(905) 685-1331

The following schools will not be holding Open Houses; please see below for details:

Crowland Central Public School
738 Lyons Creek Road, Welland
(905) 354-1321

Fort Erie Elementary School
474 Central Avenue, Fort Erie
(905) 227-3827

Rose Seaton Public School
255 Emerick Avenue, Fort Erie
(905) 227-3827

St. David's Public School
1344 York Road, St. David's
(905) 262-4533

Steele Street Public School**
214 Steele Street, Port Colborne
(905) 834-4333

Stevensville Public School
3521 Main Street East, Stevensville
(905) 382-3122

Valley Way Public School
5315 Valley Way, Niagara Falls
(905) 356-6611

Victoria Public School**
5635 Heritage Drive, Niagara Falls
(905) 354-1321

Vineland Public School
4057 Victoria Avenue N. Vineland
(905) 562-5211

Westdale Public School
474 Central Avenue, Fort Erie
(905) 227-3827

Westmont Public School
73 Ann Street West, Thorold
(905) 227-3827

William E. Brown Public School
31870 Lee Street, Wainfleet
(905) 899-3471

Winger Public School**
53220 Winger Road, Wainfleet
(905) 899-3821

Woodland Public School**
1511 7th Street, St. Catharines
(905) 685-1331

Not sure which school your children should be attending?

SchoolLocator

Our easy-to-use School Locator can help you simply type in your address to find the location of your DSNB home school!

www.dsnb.org

New to Niagara?

Becoming part of a new community raises a number of important questions. Some of the most important questions undoubtedly include where your children will attend school and how their needs will be met.

To help make your transition easier, the DSBN Welcome Centre is here to support all newcomer families and international students. We'll help find the right school for your children, provide you with resources available in many different languages and connect you with the services of a settlement worker, are learning English.

To arrange your appointment, please call 905-641-1550 and ask for the Welcome Centre. We warmly welcome students of all cultures, faiths and languages.

Tips to get your child ready for school

Starting school is an important step in your son's or daughter's life—and yours. It's a big change. It's exciting. It's even a little scary. Here are some tips* that will help you get your child ready for that first day of school.

1. Learn at home. Include learning in your child's everyday life. For example, a child can practise by reading package labels or weighing produce while shopping. Read to your child. Play word or counting games.
2. Teach the importance of listening. School means being able to listen. Kids need to understand and practise listening, things like: look at who is talking, don't interrupt, and think about what is being said.
3. Practise sharing. Give your child all kinds of opportunities to be with other kids, to learn to share, wait, and take turns. That's what school is all about.
4. Develop young muscles. Give your child every opportunity to exercise and develop larger muscles by running, climbing, playing with a ball, etc. Smaller hand muscles can be strengthened with Play-Dough®, pencils, and crayons.
5. Encourage questions. Give your child the confidence to ask questions in all situations. Let your child know that it's OK to tell the teacher if something is hard to understand.

The DSBN's Kindergarten website is an important tool to help your family prepare for school. You will find information about open houses, a downloadable registration form and tips to help your child be ready for their year of school. There is also a contact form where you can ask questions and find additional support. We look forward to welcoming you and your family in September!

*from the Ontario Ministry of Education

Visit a PFLC and get a head start on literacy!

The DSBN's five Parenting and Family Literacy Centres give children from infancy to six years old a chance to get a head start in their learning through a variety of engaging and educational activities.

In addition to the numerous educational activities, the PFLCs will also be able to link families to important community resources such as special needs, health, employment and other related services.

PARENTING AND FAMILY LITERACY CENTRE LOCATIONS:

NIAGARA FALLS REGION

Kate S Durdan Public School
6855 Kalar Road, Niagara Falls,
Open Monday-Friday,
8:30am - 12:30pm
(905) 356-0488

FORT ERIE REGION

Rose Seaton Public School
255 Emerick Avenue, Fort Erie
Open Monday - Friday,
9:00am - 1:00pm
(905) 871-4393

ST. CATHARINES NORTH REGION

Lincoln Centennial Public School
348 Scott Street, St. Catharines
Open Monday - Friday,
8:45am - 12:45pm
(905) 937-5110

WELLAND REGION

Plymouth Public School
111 First Street, Welland
Open Monday - Friday,
9:00am - 1:00pm
(905) 732-4110

ST. CATHARINES SOUTH REGION

Connaught Public School
28 Prince Street, St. Catharines
Open Monday-Friday,
8:45am - 12:45 pm
(905) 682-6609

